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U. S. to Probe Perjury in Bolden Conviction

The United States attorney's office said a full investigation will be made of the perjury confession by the chief prosecution witness in the federal trial of a former secret service agent convicted of attempting to sell a secret government file.

"I can make no comment while the current trial is being held," said Robert J. Collins, first assistant United States attorney, "but I assure you there will be a full investigation at its conclusion."

Confesses to Perjury

Collin's boss, United States Atty. Edward V. Hanrahan, was in Washington for the inauguration yesterday when Joseph Spagnoli Jr., on trial in federal District court with eight others on counterfeiting charges, took the stand and said he committed perjury as chief witness last summer against Abraham W. Bolden, the agent who was fired and sentenced to 6 years in prison.

Spagnoli, 32, testified Bolden offered to sell the government's file of evidence against Spagnoli, which is being used in the current trial.

In yesterday's testimony Spagnoli said he lied about meeting dates and his employment during the agent's trial. Further, he testified, he did so at the request of Assistant United States Atty. Richard T. Sykes "so I would look good in the jury's eyes."

Quizzed by Reporters

Sykes, a government prosecutor in the case against Spagnoli and the others, was in court and heard the perjury admission. When questioned by reporters outside court he became indignant and repeatedly answered, "No comment whatsoever."

Bolden's attorney, Raymond J. Smith, a former United States attorney who resigned to enter private practice, immediately asked for a transcript of the Spagnoli comments and said he will petition both Judge Joseph Sam Perry and the United States Court of Appeals Monday for a new Bolden trial.

Judge Perry heard the Bolden trial and is hearing the current case.

No Direct Denial

The perjury admission, Smith said, leaves two questions unanswered: "What was the extent of the perjury? If the government prosecutor induced Spagnoli to lie, what other illegal measures were taken?"

Spagnoli's admission under direct questioning by his attorney, Frank W. Oliver, contained no direct denial of his original testimony that Bolden offered the file for $50,000.